

Message

From: Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/19/2016 8:11:23 PM
To: Videtich, Callie [Videtich.Callie@epa.gov]
CC: Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]; Shea, Valois [Shea.Valois@epa.gov]
Subject: Dewey Burdock Update for Region 7 RTOC Meeting
Attachments: RTOC Outreach on UIC Dewey Burdock.docx

Callie: per your request re: the above meeting, here is what I adapted from what we sent Blake for the White House Tribal Nations Conference:

Proposed Powertech (USA) Inc. Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery Site

Background: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are the primary agencies for the Powertech proposed uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) project site northwest of Edgemont, South Dakota. The NRC license and the DENR large scale mining permit will regulate the whole site including operation, aquifer restoration and site closure.

The EPA's primary role is to regulate injection wells at the site and make a determination on an aquifer exemption. Powertech has proposed fourteen well fields containing several hundred Class III injection wells (400 to 700 feet deep) for ISR, and up to eight deep injection wells for the disposal of operation waste fluids at this site. Powertech also submitted an aquifer exemption request to enable injection for uranium recovery from ore deposits within the Inyan Kara Group aquifer system.

Tribal Interest/Engagement: At least 38 tribal nations have historic claims to the proposed project area near the Black Hills and/or considered this area to be sacred. Through consultation with a number of tribal nations to date, EPA has heard tribes raise a number of issues including concerns about potential impacts on historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

Next Steps: The EPA anticipates issuing its draft UIC permit decisions in the fall of 2016 for public comment. Upon draft permit issuance, EPA will be able to provide interested tribes much more specific information about how these UIC permits propose to protect underground sources of drinking water at the site. All interested tribes will be given courtesy notice of EPA's public comment period and the date, time, and locations of the public hearings. The EPA encourages tribes to consult with EPA throughout its permitting process and is committed to considering all tribal input to inform its permit and aquifer exemption decisions.

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